Chairman Mark Holden called the Special Meeting of the Board of Education to order at 6:38 p.m.

Roll Call:
Mark Holden, Chairman
José Goncalves
Thomas Minotti, Vice Chairman
Amanda Kilmartin
Kate Kutash, Secretary
Darlisa Ritter
Anne Gaydos
Kathleen Yolish
David Gioiello

Full Quorum
Board of Education Administration present: Christopher Clouet, Superintendent of Schools; Lorraine Rossner, Assistant Superintendent; Rick Belden, Finance Director; Carole Pannozzo, Human Resources Director
Also Present: Rebecca Auger and Meghan McGaffin, Milone & MacBroom Consultants
(1 tape on file in Town Clerk’s Office)

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of Agenda
David Gioiello moved to approve the agenda; motion seconded by Kathy Yolish and passed unanimously.

Discussion of Redistricting Plan
Rebecca Auger and Meghan McGaffin of Milone & MacBroom gave a presentation of preliminary redistricting plans to members of the public. Of the six scenarios, plans four, five and six were considered the most viable in terms of balancing elementary school enrollment and programs; school utilization targets; and least neighborhood disruption. Preliminary maps were shown and can be viewed on the district website.

There were numerous questions and comments from the public. Some who spoke were: Joanna Foster, 93 Dickinson Drive; Ashley Sulinsky, 1 Spicebush Lane; Peg Levine, 23 Timberlane Drive; Stephen Massad, 20 Sylvester’s Way; Kristen Oppel Stone, 183 Coram Road; Jenny Meeker, 59 Rocky Rest Road; Cheri Rizio, 11 Barbara Drive; Lauren Nevens, 22 Cobble Stone Drive; Nisha and Hirdesh Upadhayay, 50 Maler Ave; Fatime Dervishaj, 19 Martinka Drive; Debra Marino, 77 Vista Drive; Jen Myers, 14 Rodia Ridge Road, Jessica Mitchell, 208 Lenore Drive; Alex Ribaligua, 53 Ten Coat Lane; Jose Fernandes, 110 North Street; Kristina Neuser, 199 Stonehedge; Jessica Sciamanna, 27 Molnar Drive. The following topics were raised, followed by discussion:
- What is expected date for finalized plan?
- What is number of students who will be moved?
- Concern for length of time young students will be on buses
• Will kindergarten screenings be transferred to new school?
• Will there be opportunities for students to meet principal and teachers?
• Is there possibility of needing another redistricting if Mohegan hits the maximum?
• Will Sunnyside boundaries remain?
• Is there possibility of increased class sizes due to reduction of teachers?
• Will there be any impact on music, art and other specials?
• How can decision be made on redistricting without knowing what budget will be?
• Concern about resiliency of children who will be moved
• When was last redistricting and have those projections been reviewed?
• Is the better solution to build a new school?
• Why can’t we open Lafayette?
• What is the maximum capacity of PHS?
• With increase of students at Mohegan, will that increase class size and number of teachers?
• Concerns about support system for students. Will we have the support system with budget cuts?

(Note: Tape 1; Side B at 7:40 p.m.)

• Is the redistricting driven by budgetary concerns?
• Will teachers be moved?
• Do we have the capacity to verify residency?
• Will regionalization have an impact in Shelton?
• Has there been any conversation with Planning & Zoning about capping residential housing, apartments, condos, etc. that are likely to attract families with children?
• Where does the Superintendent see Shelton schools in the next 5-7 years?
• What about small expansions of current schools, adding some classrooms?
• Are scenarios #1, 2, and 3 off the table?
• Concerns about timing of announcement in May that will affect parent decisions for daycare, etc.
• After tweaking the scenarios, will you come back with something new?
• Concerns about busing. Could we be in the same situation in July as last year? Could the City say because of redistricting, it’s not what they agreed to?

Superintendent Clouet thanked the public for attending and said there will be another redistricting plan public meeting on April 23 at 6:30 p.m. at Shelton Intermediate School.

Adjournment
Chairman Mark Holden adjourned the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Diane Luther
Secretary to Board of Education
March 26, 2019